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Ross, Howard De Haven, 1872-
History of the De Haven
family

H I S T O R Y
OF
THE DE HAVEN FAMILY

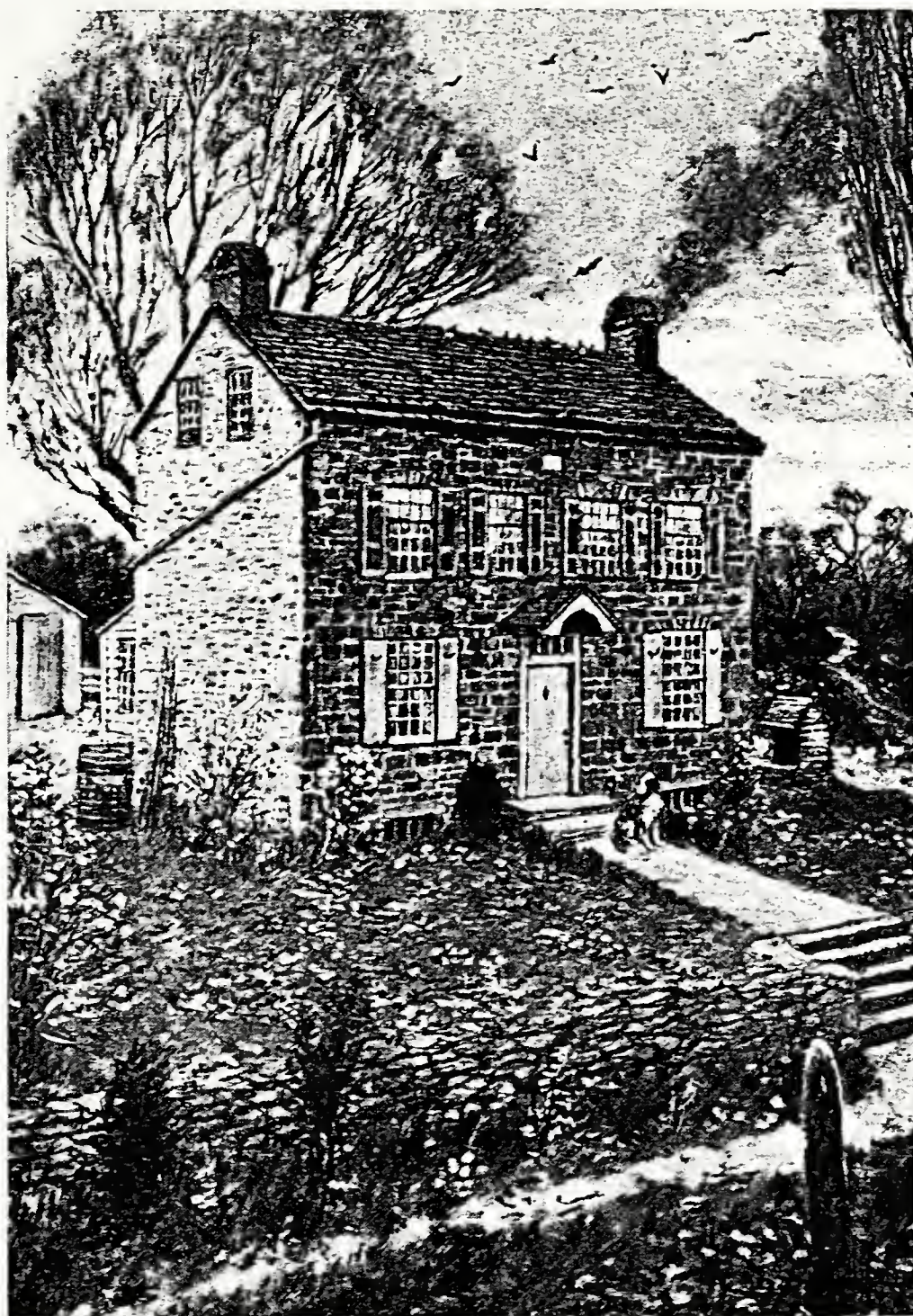
BY
HOWARD DE HAVEN ROSS, Ph. B.
(UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

FOURTH EDITION
REVISED AND RE-ILLUSTRATED

THE PANDICK PRESS
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THE OLD "DE HAVEN HOMESTEAD" AT "THE GULF", UPPER
MERION TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENN'A.
DRAWN BY CLYDE O. DELAND, PHIL'A.

1134382

IN MEMORIAM.

THIS WORK IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED
TO MY DEARLY BELOVED MOTHER IN HONOR
OF HER FAMILY, WHO, BY THEIR SERVICE AND
SACRIFICE DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR,
ASSISTED IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDE-
PENDENCE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AUTHOR'S NOTE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

Owing to continued demand the author has found it advisable to issue a fourth edition of this small volume. The kindness and success heretofore meted it, have inspired greater efforts and pains with this new edition, with the comforting assurance that the task would ever be to him a labor of love and as such would carry with it its own reward.

Greenwich, Connecticut.
Washington's Birthday,
February 22, 1929.



HOWARD DE HAVEN ROSS. PH. B.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN presenting this small volume allow me to say by way of explanation that the chief purpose of the author has been to give a brief outline of the family history. The subject matter is one of common interest to all members of the De Haven family and one in which I take no ordinary pride. I have of late devoted both time and money at library work making a historical research of old records, documents, and papers of family, church and state, and have been engaged in collecting and formulating the family evidence and tradition in connection with the De Haven Revolutionary loan with all material and facts relative thereto. It affords me great pleasure to be able to present this data from my notes for publication, for the mutual benefit of all concerned. This work is merely intended as a record for the general use of the family and public. If as such it be appreciated the hope

that inspired its preparation will be amply realized. I take this opportunity to thank any who have in the least contributed to make this publication possible. I will ask of you to deal leniently with your criticisms and share with me the candid purpose of

THE AUTHOR.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Philadelphia, May 1, 1894.

HISTORY OF THE DE HAVEN FAMILY.

PART I.

The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan.

Suffering of the Revolutionary Army at Valley Forge—Washington's Appeal for Aid and Relief—Jacob De Haven in 1777 Loans Money to the Continental Government—His Patriotism—His Sacrifices—The De Havens give Supplies to the Army—De Haven's Claim before Congress—Evidences of the Debt—Action against the Government by the Heirs—Its Justice—A Debt of Honor—The Blessings of Liberty.

REVERSE the wheels of time, roll them back for a century and more to the long and dreary winter of 1777-'78, and review the pitiable condition of the Revolutionary army under Washington encamped at Valley Forge, exposed to Winter's piercing cold, drifting snows and chilling blasts. The handful of distressed and famishing troops, perishing with want, were left almost destitute, suffering almost indescribable hardships and privations from hunger and cold. The state of the army was growing more and more a subject of solicitude to Washington.

The soldiers were ill clad, poorly fed and worse paid. They were left without blankets or shoes, without provisions, ammunition or money, with danger, famine, sickness and death staring them in the face. What could be expected of them but mutiny and desertion?

Congress had no supplies, nor money, and the country was in a wretched monetary condition. The currency was depreciated and public credit was gone. Washington turned to the citizens of Pennsylvania at this alarming crisis. He wrote President Reed of Pennsylvania entreating aid and relief. Said he, "We have never experienced a like extremity at any period of the war. Every idea you can form of our distress will fall far short of the reality. Unless aid comes our affairs must soon become desperate beyond the possibility of recovery. The army must disband or starve. This is a decisive moment; one of the most, I will go further and say *the* most important America has seen. The crisis in every point of view is extraordinary, and extraordinary expedients are necessary. I am decided in this opinion. This is a time to hazard and to take a tone of energy and decision, and by one great exertion put an end to the war. All parties but the disaffected will acquiesce in the necessity and give it their support."

The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan. 9

Great efforts were made to borrow money which was not less efficient at that time than valor on the field of battle. Relief came at length by liberal contributions made by a few individuals. Jacob De Haven among others, being appealed to for aid, nobly responded by advancing the Continental Government \$450,000 *through Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, at the head of the government finances at the time. The contribution of De Haven was made in a spirit of broad, generous and self-sacrificing patriotism to cheer the Winter gloom and relieve the pressing wants of the poor destitute soldiery, thus bearing testimony to his sincere loyalty and unselfish devotion with patriotic fidelity to the cause of American Independence. He came to the service of his country in the hour of deepest distress and most trying perplexities of the long and painful struggle, espousing and trusting her when fortunes were gloomy, and hopes, but for the intense zeal and beneficent gifts of her patriots, well-nigh crushed. He played a grand and im-

* This was in 1777. The greater portion it is claimed was advanced in specie from cash realized from securities on his land, and the residue consisted of supplies furnished the Army. The amount of the loan, with its accumulation of interest for more than a century and a quarter, now aggregates more than \$4,000,000.

posing *role* in the great drama of the Revolution, that involved the greatest consequences to the struggling colonies. It is difficult for us who live in the strength and glory of our Republic at the present enjoyment to look back through the long stretch of a century and more and realize with what sacrifice to private interest, domestic enjoyment, and internal tranquility our forefathers administered relief to the country's needs. None more richly merit the distinguished consideration of posterity in monumenting their fame than these, to whom we are indebted beyond computation.

The De Havens also contributed further of supplies to the army while at Valley Forge from their lands which were within the shadow of that historic camp, on the west bank of the Schuylkill only a few miles away. General Washington resorted to the expedient of levying contributions on the surrounding country, and ordered that "all persons residing in the vicinity be required to thresh grain under penalty of its seizure." The necessity of the order was extremely painful to Washington.*

* In the latter part of the summer of 1796 and as his term as President was about to expire, Washington visited these lands in the vicinity of Valley Forge to see how far the desolate fields and the families had recovered from the distress they had experienced.

The government it is stated regularly acknowledged the Revolutionary loan of Jacob De Haven at the time, and sometime afterward offered to reimburse him in Continental money (script) which he declined to accept because of the enormous depreciation of that currency.* De Haven failed in his efforts to secure a settlement during his lifetime because of the depleted condition of the National treasury, the government being unable for many years to meet even the interest on the public debt. Subsequently in the '50's of the last century, De Haven's heirs prepared to present their claim before Congress and the effort for its recovery was in good shape when the Civil War broke out, and the chaotic condition of the government during that period prevented the claimants from effecting a return of the money. Again in the '70's a movement was inaugurated to effect a settlement of the claim before Congress, but was afterwards abandoned because of the demands upon the treasury from other directions.† Then the matter was allowed to rest until the more recent agitation, following shortly after the first publication of this work which spread throughout the

* The country became flooded with a Continental currency irredeemable and of no intrinsic value, and with increased issues it declined and finally dropped entirely out of circulation.

Country. Legal preparations were made for action in Washington, D. C. by the legal heirs of Jacob De Haven to recover the loan from the government, but the Spanish American War precluded the possibility of a settlement and the matter was again allowed to rest. With the vast accumulation of the reserve in the National Treasury the Government could at any time now make a settlement of this just claim without inconvenience.

† It was for a while supposed that record of the loan in the Treasury at Washington had been destroyed when the government buildings were burned by the British in 1812, but it was afterwards ascertained that certain documentary evidence of the loan is yet attainable from among the State and Treasury Department records at Washington. This was given as authoritative by the Hon. Jas. G. Blaine, Secretary of State. It is also claimed that there is recorded a vote of thanks to De Haven from President Reed of Pennsylvania for loans of money. It is not known whether De Haven received loan office or commissary certificates for money or supplies given the government.

Tradition and family history both authenticate the loan. The family is in possession of a number of old documents and papers relative to the case. There is in the possession of the family a number of old affidavits of persons testifying of having known Jacob De Haven, that he loaned the government money, and that our family is lawful heir to the money. An old affidavit reads: "The fact of his loaning all his means to the government was well known to the neighborhood and his friends at the time."

An old family bible is said to have once contained a receipt from the government for money loaned it by De Haven, sealed to a leaf therein by the red seal of the U. S. Government.



THE DE HAVEN SECRETARY IN USE FROM 1760 IN THE OLD
DE HAVEN HOMESTEAD. PROPERTY OF HOWARD DE HAVEN ROSS.
DRAWN BY CLYDE O. DELAND, PHIL'A.

The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan. 13

In a Bulletin issued July 1, 1905 by the law firm of Anderson & Doan of Washington, D. C., Attorneys for the De Haven Heirs, the following statement of facts was made public:

IN THE MATTER OF THE DE HAVEN HEIRS VS. THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

In 1894, our firm was first employed to prosecute the claim of the heirs of Jacob De Haven, deceased, against the United States Government for the recovery of \$450,000 loaned thereto by De Haven, then a resident of Pennsylvania, and a man of large means and intensely American.

The greater part of this sum, it is claimed, was paid in gold, and from cash realized from securities on his land, and the residue consisted of supplies furnished the army. This loan, with its accumulations of interest, now aggregates more than \$4,000,000. The fact of this loan is as well established in the annals of the De Haven family as tradition, circumstantial evidence and the positive declarations of Jacob De Haven himself could establish any fact in which his heirs have a common interest.

That it was never paid is equally well established.

This is a case of very great interest, and appeals to the highest consideration of justice on the part of the United States. The debt could not have a more sacred origin. Washington, who had so often appealed to the people for help, speaking of that dark period in the history of our forefathers, says, of the Revolutionary debt, "It is more than a common debt, it is a debt of honor."

The United States Government so regarded the debts made in the defence of liberty and independence from the mother country.

That such a loan as Jacob De Haven's was authorized, there can be no question.

The Continental Congress passed a resolution to raise \$5,000,000 at four per cent. interest October 3, 1776.

Some four months thereafter, to wit: February 22, 1777, the same Congress passed a similar resolution to borrow \$13,000,000.

In these resolutions it was among other things declared, that the money so to be borrowed, was for the use of the United States at the annual interest of four per cent, and directed certificates to be issued accordingly. So the absolute authority for the loan existed by positive authority of the Continental Congress October 3, 1776 and February 22, 1777, at four per cent. interest and certificates to issue accordingly.

Again, has the Federal Government (U. S.) authorized the payment of such loans so made under these resolutions of the Continental Congress.

The National Government commenced March 4, 1789.

Hamilton's report, as Secretary of the Treasury, was presented to the House, January 15, 1790. It embodied a financial scheme which was generally adopted and remained the line of financial policy of the New Government for more than twenty years.

On his recommendation the New Government assumed not only the foreign and domestic debts of the Old Government in carrying on the war, as its own, but also the debts contracted by the several States during that period for the general welfare, viz :

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1st. Foreign debts with interest \$12,000,000 due chiefly to France and private lenders in Holland.

2nd. The domestic debt, including outstanding Continental money and interest, amounting to \$42,000,000.

3rd. The State debts assumed amounting to \$21,000,000 to the States, of which Pennsylvania was to get \$2,200,000. The propositions of Hamilton were agreed to in March, 1790.

The Act of August 4, 1790, pledged the faith of the United States to make up all deficiencies in interest

For superintending these loans and for general management of the public debt, the old Continental system of a loan office commission in each State was continued. Robert Morris was appointed Superintendent of Finance and Secretary of the Treasury under the Confederation, and so served until 1784 when the fiscal affairs of the country were placed in the hands of three Commissioners.

Under the old Colonial Government there existed a loan office system or financial agents of the Government in each State to receive loans and subsistence to carry on the war.

It is generally believed that the Jacob De Haven money was received by Robert Morris.

NOW, AS TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL AGENTS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

The indebtedness of the Revolutionary War, and its settlement with all creditors both public and private, was passed over to the New Government.

The accounts of many of the loan offices were unsettled. There seems to have been much laxity in their management. The papers of the first Virginia loan office were lost.

In South Carolina and Georgia the loan office proceeds had been appropriated to State uses, and from only five States have returns been made; but of more than \$2,000,000 advanced to the Secret Committee of Foreign Affairs prior to August, 1777, a considerable part remains unaccounted for. The expenditure of fully one-third of the money borrowed remains unexplained.

Had the accounts of the various financial agents of the Government been correctly kept, and the reports of the agents from time to time been presented and filed as contemplated by law, and a faithful discharge of public duty and trust demanded, no difficulty would have existed in effecting the payment of this loan.

The fact is astounding that of all these agents but FIVE in the States have made reports.

For the truth of this fact, we give Prof. Benson J. Lossing, author of the "Cyclopædia of United States History, Vol. I. page 317." Divers authorities confirm the same, and it is in accord with our investigations.

Statements, transactions, &c., &c., covering the Revolutionary period and the struggle for independence, together with manuscripts embodying the collections of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton, as well as the journals of the Continental Congress, exist in the State Department in a chaotic State.

To carefully investigate these valuable papers and Continental records is no ordinary task. So important are these papers now in the archives of the

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State Department, that our late Secretary of State, the Hon. Walter Q. Gresham, on January 6, 1895, submitted to Congress a general plan for publishing these valuable historical manuscripts, in the course of which he recommended their publication in a set of fifty volumes at a cost of \$100,000 for the first edition of 1,000 volumes. He also suggested that the work should be done gradually, on an appropriation of \$25 000 annually, and under the supervision of a competent editor and staff.

We believe that with a full and careful examination of these State documents, reports, revolutionary facts, &c., that the loan of Jacob De Haven will be established.

Without some authority from Congress no one outside of the State, Treasury and War Departments can be permitted to examine these valuable papers.

SUMMARY OF THE CASE.

WHAT HAS BEEN FOUND AND WHAT SETTLED.

- 1st. The Colonial Government being in financial distress, individual loans were authorized by the Continental Congress and loan office certificates were issued therefor.
- 2d. That the Federal Government recognized these obligations and passed a special Act for their payment with interest.
- 3d. That out of the thirteen financial agents appointed by the Continental Government to receive these individual loans and subsistence for the war, but five have made reports to the Government as required by law.
- 4th. The existence of an unassorted and confused mass of revolutionary records, documents, papers, &c., in

the State, Treasury and War Departments, aggregating say fifty or more large volumes.

5th. The recommendation by Mr. Gresham, late Secretary of State, for the proper editing, indexing and publication of these records of the Continental period now found in a chaotic condition.

6th. Unbroken family history and tradition alike authenticate this loan.

7th. The possession by the De Haven heirs of a number of old affidavits of sundry persons testifying that they knew Jacob De Haven; that he said to them that he loaned this money to the Government, and that it was never repaid.

8th. During the 44th Congress a petition was filed for the relief of the De Haven heirs and referred to the Revolutionary War Committee. Thereafter leave was granted to withdraw all the papers on file, which was done.

9th. Edgar A. Murphy, Esq., of the De Haven Club at Philadelphia, wrote under date of May 27, 1895, that Mr. Davies W. De Haven of that city informs him that as early as 1850 John De Haven, since deceased, stated to him that he had seen and had in his own hands an old parchment on which this loan was mentioned, amounting to \$450,000, and also certain supplies furnished the Government by De Haven. He further adds, "I have in my possession a letter written by John De Haven (the grandfather of the author of this work) in which he claims also to know all about this piece of parchment."

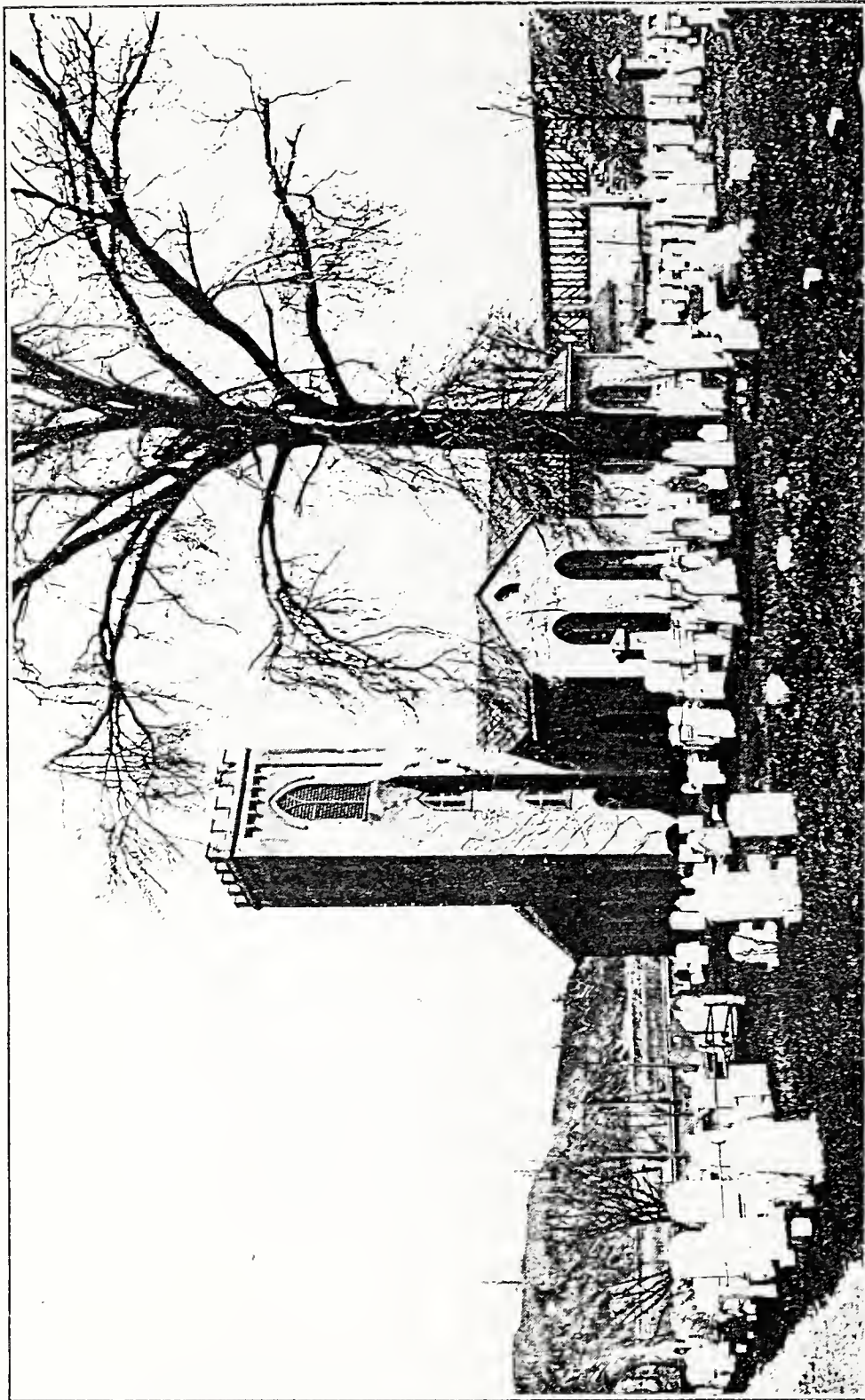
ANDERSON & DOAN.

The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan. 19

A sacred regard for public justice demands a discharge of this debt, incurred in the public service for the common good. It was part of the price of liberty. The debt could not have had a more sacred origin. As Washington says of the Revolutionary debt, "It is more than a common debt, it is a debt of honor." It is a debt of gratitude. It cannot be disregarded without a breach of faith. The long delay of national justice and deferred hope has caused distress to the family in many ways. The heirs ask justice, not charity, of a free and prosperous people, as a public blessing for the sake of national honor.

Think of the innumerable blessings we now share in the enjoyment of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness which our forefathers secured to us by the painful struggle, and which they bequeathed to posterity as a heritage forever, in peace, plenty and security. Progress and prosperity have borne us rich fruits through the various pursuits of industry and enterprise. Time has developed our unequalled natural resources. Trade, commerce and manufactures have flourished. Through the restoration of hope and confidence the national as well as individual wealth has increased beyond all precedent, until we now behold with the progress of a century and more, the greatest, the richest

and the most glorious nation and government on the face of the globe, as the triumphs of an illustrious people, and as a perpetual monument to the founders of American Independence. May then the liberty and independence won by our forefathers at that ransomed price contribute to our peace, honor and glory, our virtue, wisdom and perpetual happiness, and our common defence and general welfare now and forever! May that government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," instituted for the protection of the permanent enjoyment of the blessings of liberty be perpetuated and sacredly maintained under one flag, one country and one people forevermore! And may ample justice be done here,—and the choicest flowers both here and hereafter grace—those who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings to us all!



OLD SWEDES CHURCH (BY THE SIDE OF THE SCHUYLKILL) SWEDELAND,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENN'A.

PART II.

The De Haven History and Genealogy.

Jacob De Haven came to America from France with his Brothers—Settled near Swedeland, Penna., in Colonial Days—His Circumstances—His Lands—His Later Years and Death—Samuel, a Revolutionary Soldier, gave Supplies to the Army—His Descendants: John, Jonathan, and John,—Edward, brother to Jacob—Peter, Manufactured Arms for the Colonial Government and State of Pennsylvania—Member of a Committee to Raise Money by Subscription for the Government—The Historic Lands.

Jacob De Haven of Revolutionary fame, a well to do Frenchman, immigrated to America with his three brothers—Samuel, Edward and Peter—in the ante-Revolutionary times. He came from the borders of France—the border provinces between France and Germany—between 1750 and 1760. The De Havens were very well-to-do for those days. They originally made money in vine culture (vineyards) in France before coming to America.*

* Family tradition tells us that the De Havens always had specie in bags about the house. Among other things the De Havens owned vessels running between the American colonies and the West Indies which were profitable to them. They established tanneries at various places for making leather, bringing expert tanners from France to work them.

The De Havens settled near the Swedish settlement, at "Swedeland," then and until 1784 in Philadelphia County, but now in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. They located on one of the "Penn grants"—a tract of land purchased of the Penns—Thomas and Richard Penn, sons of William Penn, then Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania. The products of their plantations were used during the Revolution to supply the Continental army while in their section of the country.*

For land donated to the old Swedes Church at Swedeland the De Haven descendants for all time to come were given a family birth right to lots in the burial grounds at that cemetery. All the early De Havens were interred there, and in fact they and their descendants make up very largely the burials at that place.

The original land acquired by the De Havens became gradually divided and subdivided among their sons and their grand-sons, in farm-lands,

* It is generally known that the De Havens owned much land in Upper and Lower Merion Townships, Montgomery County, in the vicinity of the Gulf, which fact is authenticated by old wills and deeds in the possession of the family and recorded at Philadelphia and Norristown. They also held land in Plymouth Township where they had tanneries. The De Havens also possessed property in the city of Philadelphia.

and today their descendants still hold title to a portion of the land.

It is sad to state that after his services rendered his country, and because of his sacrifices, the closing years of Jacob De Haven's life were passed in deep pecuniary embarrassment, and that he died of a broken-heart in the year 1812. His remains lie in the old Swedes burial ground, though no tomb nor monument of any kind marks his resting place.*

Samuel, brother of Jacob, bore arms in the struggle as a Revolutionary soldier among those heroes who gave us the heritage of liberty and free government we now enjoy. †

* The latter years of Jacob De Haven's life were spent with his brother Samuel at the Gulf. Because of the former's troubles his mind weakened in old age. It is claimed that he had two sons, one having been killed at the battle of Germantown and the other having died in infancy. It is positively known that he left no lineal descendants, and his estate would therefore be shared equally among his collateral heirs, *i. e.* his brothers or their legal heirs.

An old resident once gave the following description of old Jacob De Haven in his Colonial costume: six feet tall, and stout with black eyes, and prominent nose, long hair and chin whiskers both plaited in cues; wore knee breeches, and buckles at knees and on shoes. "O what a delight for the children to flock about him."

† Samuel De Haven a soldier in the Pennsylvania line, is mentioned in the list of Revolutionary officers and soldiers of the associated battalions and militia of

He also gave money * and supplies to the army from his lands at the Gulf, in Upper and Lower Merion Townships, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where he lived and died. The De Havens donated land to the old Gulf Church and Cemetery. Samuel's estate and plantation were at his death divided equally among the sons, in farmlands, and have come down through their children to the present holders.†

John ‡ eldest son of Samuel, held farm-lands from his father, and also conducted a tannery and store at the Gulf. In his old age he lived with his grandson John, whom he raised.

Pennsylvania (1775-83) in the "Pennsylvania Archives," 2d series, Vol. 13, "Pennsylvania in the Revolution," Vol. 1, p. 53, as published by the State of Pennsylvania. Again Vol. 1, p. 722 his name is given along with other leading men in the "Philadelphia County Militia," 1st Battalion, 5th Company, 7th Class.

* Record of his loan of \$17,000 to the Government is given it is claimed in the government records in the Treasury Department at Washington.

† The descendants of Samuel De Haven claim relationship, through intermarriage into the Ball family, with Mary Washington. *nee* Ball, the mother of our illustrious George Washington, "*Pater Patriae*." This claim is borne out by court records. See the decree of the Circuit Court of U. S., District of Penna. Apl. 1823, and of Orphans Court for the city and county of Philadelphia, Auditor's Report filed Nov. 1838.

‡ Soldier, 3d Pennsylvania Regiment, U. S., Phila.



Two DECEASED

(GRANDFATHER OF THE AUTHOR)

Jonathan, eldest son of John, at one time owned a large portion of Rebel Hill at the Gulf where he lived.

John * eldest son of Jonathan, was born at the Gulf, in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He received property and land there from his grandfather, the "old De Haven homestead," where he lived and died. Here his family was raised. John De Haven received a good education for the days in which he lived, a self education however. He attended the old Gulf school and completed his later studies at home. He learned farming, from his grandfather, and in later years took pleasure in going around among a few of his friends at harvest and working with them for his own recreation. The people elected him Assessor and Tax Collector for Upper Merion Township, which offices he held with credit for many years.

* See genealogical chart. This John is grandfather to the author of this work, who through lineal descent, as shown by marked figures in the table, came into possession of family records, documents, etc. Among these are also the old family bibles and affidavits giving the family descent from the original ancestors, and the old deeds of the grants of land at present held from the original ancestors. The family have also in their possession a number of old relics,—and an old desk and dressing-case formerly belonging to old Samuel De Haven. All of the original papers and documents relative to the De Haven claim against the United States

The next brother to Jacob De Haven was Edward, who emigrated to Kentucky, where he and his descendants lived.

The younger brother, Peter De Haven, and his son lived in Philadelphia, and during the Revolutionary War manufactured arms and ammunition for the government under a special contract, and for which they received large sums on account from the Provincial government of Pennsylvania and the Colonial government.*

Government which are known to exist have been acquired from members of the family by the author of this work, together with the old family records, documents, etc. which he inherited along with the old family desk from his grandmother, Mary Ann, widow of John De Haven.

* Mention of payments to "Peter De Haven & Co." by the Pennsylvania Council of Safety at Philadelphia on account of the gun factory are given in the "American Archives," 5th series; Vol. III, published under authority of Congress, and in the "Journals of Assembly," Vol. I, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the former gives mention of orders drawn on the State Treasurer for £2,000, from Nov. 11th to 28th, 1776, and again for £1,500 from January 1776 to August 1778. In the latter is given a statement of the Public Finances for 1776-'79 in which sums aggregating £12,718 were paid them by the State Treasurer from Aug. 24th, 1776 to July 6th, 1778. Frequent mentions are also to be found in the "Pennsylvania Archives" and the "Colonial Records," published by the State of Pennsylvania, of Peter De Haven's dealings with the Provincial Council of Safety, the Pennsylvania Board of War, and the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. The

At the beginning of the war Peter De Haven conducted with care and attention the public gun factory and powder mills of the Province of Pennsylvania situated at Philadelphia at Third and Cherry streets, at French Creek in Chester County, at Hummelstown, in Philadelphia County, and at other places during the Revolutionary war.* The factory manufactured new muskets as well as repaired old ones. Public military stores and barracks were kept in close proximity to the factory. In October, 1778, the State asked Congress to take the factory, and two months later in December, 1778, Peter De Haven and his son having conducted it for the three years past offered to purchase it of the state and supply the state with arms, to which Council agreed. ‡

"Colonial Records" published many letters in full between Peter De Haven and the Council and Assembly of Pennsylvania in connection with other original documents, relating to supplies of arms, etc., in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

* In September 1777 the British under Howe threatened to move on the works at French Creek, whereupon the works were with great difficulty moved to Reading. Later in Philadelphia Peter De Haven suffered considerable loss at the hands of the enemy, who stormed the works. In September 1777, De Haven furnished arms for the suppression of a tory rising in Eastern Pennsylvania. The same year the powder mills were blown up by conspiracy.

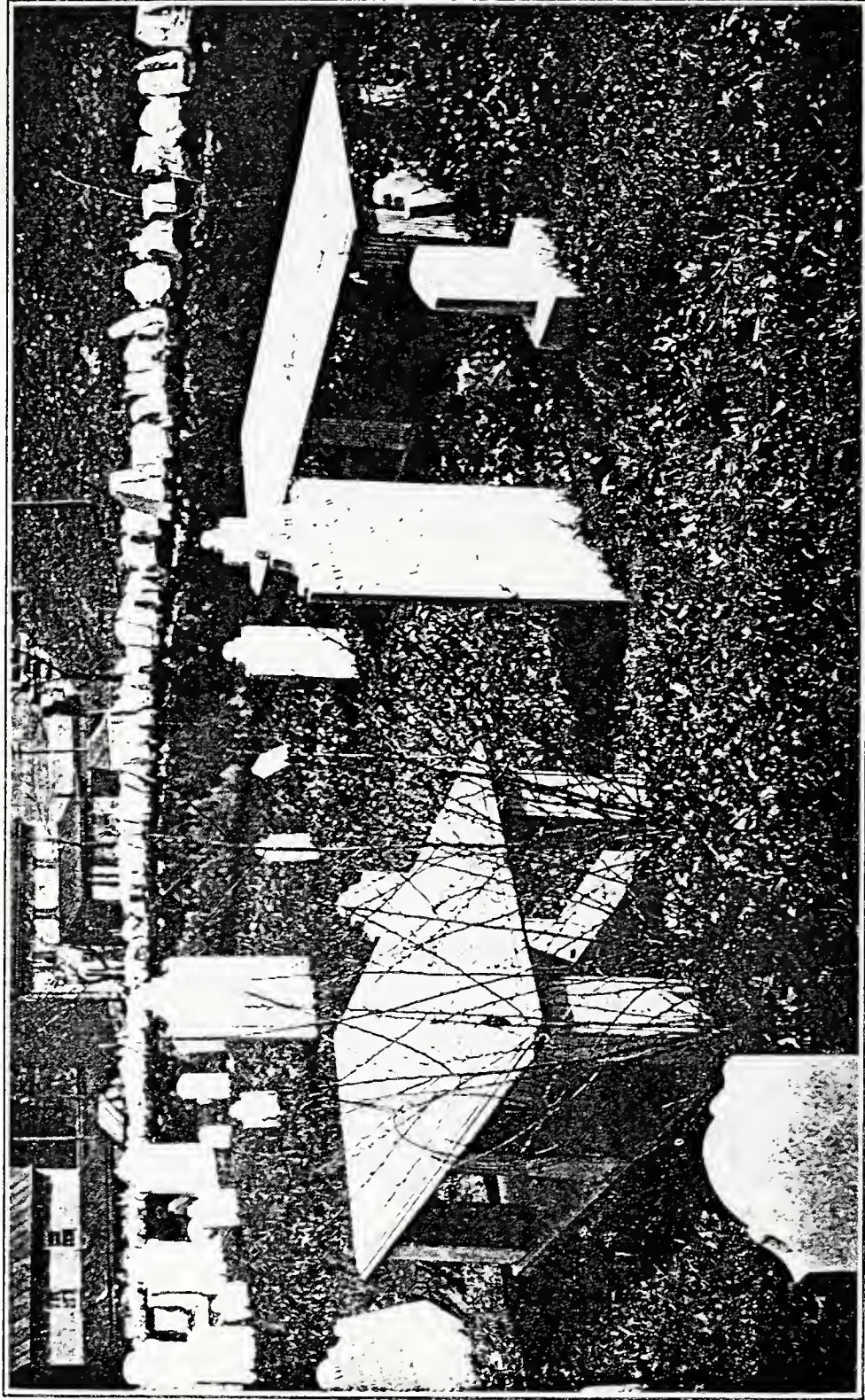
In April, 1779, by order of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, Peter De Haven was appointed agent for forfeited estates in the County of Philadelphia but declined the office. The Council in May, 1779, appointed and commissioned him Health Officer for the Port of Philadelphia. De Haven was at one time one of the assessors of Philadelphia and County. The Council in November, 1780, appointed him a commissioner for the state to purchase hay for the use of the Continental army while in Winter quarters.

Peter De Haven * was appointed a member of a committee, from the North district in Philadelphia, in July 1779, (and endorsed at a town

‡ Peter De Haven was ordered by the Council of Safety in May, 1776, "to make public the process of boring and grinding gun barrels, and instruct such persons as they shall require to be taught that art." for communicating which he was given a premium of fifty pounds.

* In Walcott's Names of Persons who took the oath of allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia A. D. 1777-78 is found this entry: "November 7, 1778, Peter De Haven of Philadelphia, *Gentlemen*, produces his certificate taken of me 26th of June, 1777." The list contains over a hundred names; but this is the only one with that honorable affix. The original certificate, together with other papers, is in possession of his descendants in Virginia who settled there after the Revolution.





MARBLE SLABS OF SAMUEL DE HAVEN AND HIS WIFE SUSANNA (SPAULDING) DE HAVEN
AT OLD SWEDES CHURCH, SWEDELAND, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENN'A.

meeting*) for the purpose of relieving the general distress, by raising money through subscription to be solicited from house to house for the service of the United States, the money thus raised to be considered a loan payable in three years and receivable in payment of taxes.†

Stand again beside the patriots who now sleep the sleep of the just beneath the sod in the

* See Scharf and Westcott's "History of Philadelphia," Vol. I, p. 389. During the Colonial times and long afterwards, until 1830, Philadelphia was the largest and most important city, politically, commercially, and socially on the American soil, the seat of government and the birth-place of freedom, where the old liberty bell rang out in prophetic tones, "proclaiming liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Scharf and Westcott in speaking of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary period say: "Philadelphia had suffered cruelly from the Revolution. Many of her wealthy citizens had been reduced to want. Throughout the struggle she had borne the burden and heat of the day. It was to Philadelphia, her wealth, her patriotism, her resources, that all eyes were turned during the darkest hours of the Revolution and though harrassed by the intrigues on all sides the patriotic men who controlled her affairs throughout the stormy period responded nobly to the demands that were made upon them." Philadelphia was the great depot for supplies for the Continental army, and the centre of most important movements and events of the Revolution, and for years the pivotal point of the struggle.

† The De Havens ranked among our noble Colonial heroes, statesmen, and men of war times in public affairs, being associated on different occasions with Washington, LaFayette, Morris and others.

shadow of the Old Swedes Church,* by the side of the Schuylkill, and from this beautiful valley view the dark shadows of the wooded hills which once echoed the rumble and roar of the cannon; the lonely roads of the Gulf where the dew was brushed from the wayside flowers by those demigods of the Revolution, Washington, Steuben, La Fayette, Hamilton, Lee, and others as they rode at speed on their way up the valley; these roads and hills made memorable by the treading of the patriotic army *en route* to Valley Forge.†

* See frontispiece. The old Swedes Church at Swedeland, the family church of worship in the earlier days, was founded A. D. 1760, and enlarged by addition of the tower in 1837. Washington and Wayne worshipped there during the Winter of the Valley Forge encampment.

† It is remembered of "old Grandmother De Haven" that she saw from her window the barefooted and ragged soldiers pass in front of her house on the memorable march on the Gulf road all the way in the snow. The main body of the Continental Army commanded by Gen. Geo. Washington passed along the old Gulf road *en route* to Winter quarters at Valley Forge and encamped at the Gulf from Dec. 13th to Dec. 19th, 1777. Washington frequently visited the Gulf in the heart of the picturesque hills during the encampment at Valley Forge, a number of his letters being dated from "Gulf Mills."

An extract from Gen. Washington's order reads:

' HEADQUARTERS, GULF MILLS, 17TH DECEMBER, 1777.

The Commander-in-Chief, with the highest satisfaction, expresses his thanks to the officers and soldiers for the fortitude and patience with which they have sustained the fatigues of the campaign. Although, in some instances, unfortunately failed, yet upon the whole, Heaven has smiled upon our armies and crowned them with signal success, and we may, upon the best ground conclude that by a spirited continuance of the measures necessary for our defense, we shall finally obtain the end of our warfare. *Independence, Liberty and Peace*—those are blessings worth contending for at every hazard, but we hazard nothing, the powers of America alone, duly exerted, would have nothing to dread from the force of Britain. Let us stand not wholly upon our own ground. France yields us every aid we ask, and there are reasons to believe the period is not very distant when she will take a more active part by declaring war against the British Crown.* Every motive therefore irresistably urges, nay commands us, to a firm and manly performance in opposition to our cruel oppressors, to be quiet under difficulties and hardships and to continue every danger."

The historic associations of the place dear to every lover of freedom make these changeless hills, consecrated as they have been by the un-

* This took place March 13, 1778, when the French Ambassador at London formally notified Lord North of the treaty of amity and commerce with the United States.

broken devotion and terrible suffering of the unyielding army of brave men, a sacred and classic spot, to which loving pilgrims of liberty may always turn and learn anew from their heroic example and immolated lives, the cost of that political and religious liberty which we now enjoy.

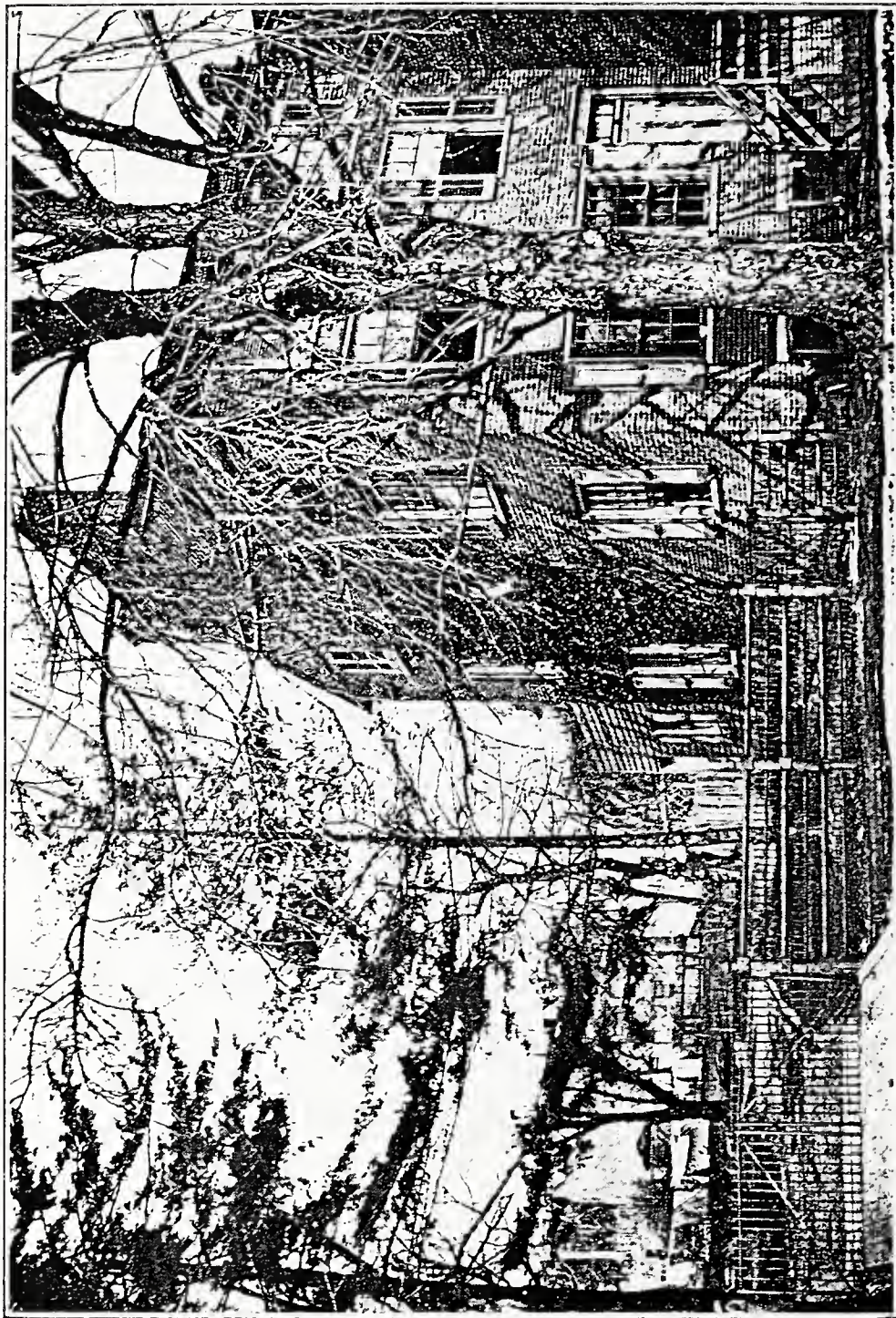
This historic ground, the seat of our ancestry and forefathers, is indeed a fiction of river, valley, plain and mountain rarely equalled, and nowhere surpassed on this continent. It was the impress of this rare picture upon the mind of the Irish bard, Tom Moore, who, when bidding farewell to it, wrote:

"The stranger is gone—but he will not forget
When at home he shall talk of the toil he has known,
To tell, with a sigh, what endearments he met,
As he strayed by the wave of the Schuylkill alone."

In conclusion, the author of this small volume deeply cherishes the history and tradition of this his birthplace and his fatherland, in these beautiful lines of Sir Walter Scott:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said
'This is my own, my native land?'"





THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AUTHOR. BY THE SIDE OF THE SCHUYLKILL, AT CONSHOCKEN,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

A D D E N D A .

PETER DE HAVEN AND THE CONTI-
NENTAL POWDER MILL.

The Author gives here some interesting facts regarding Peter De Haven and his conduct of the Continental Powder Mill at French Creek near Valley Forge, taken from "Pennsylvania Archives", 1st Series, Vol. 255:

"The Continental Congress had approved a plan for the erection of a public powder mill and had authorized the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia to carry out the work on Feb. 16, 1776. A tract was purchased in Pikeland Township, Chester County, on French Creek, about 5 miles from Phoenixville and about 10 days later 1500 pounds Sterling was voted for the site and the erection of the mill, which became known as the Continental Powder Mill. This blew up on Mar. 10, 1777. The mill was repaired and continued to make powder until after the battle of the Brandywine when all stores and powder were removed for safety. Peter De Haven, who was the master gunsmith of the Provincial Gun Factory, conducted the Continental Powder Mill at the same place."

Peter De Haven reported to the Council of Safety regarding the blowing up of the Powder Mill, as follows:

"French Creek, March 10, 1777.

To Col. John Bull or the Honorable Council of Safety,
Philadelphia: (By favor of Capt. Bodly).

Sir:

I am Sorry to inform you of the unhappy Explosion of Blowing up the Continental Powder Mill this Morning about 10 A'clock, Which Wee are very suspicious has been Done by Mr. Peck or his Men, as they have used Several odd Expressions, and they had Gone Some Distance from it at the Time it Happened and Run to the next neighbors house and Did not Come back till We Sent a Guard for them.

Mr. Peck Seemed to Say at first, that all his Men Were Killed; Secondly, he Said that he had Seen the Men Going to the Grinding House; that and Some other Reasons Give me Some Reason to think have Some Knowledge of it. The first Day of the instant, Col. Peter Grubb Was at the Powder Mill, Somewhat in Drink; he Damned the Powder Mill and told Col. Dewese 'Let us Blow it to h——', Which I thought Was a very odd Expression when Col. Dewese told me; and Several others heard him use the Expression; We have Got the Men and Mr. Peck under Guard, till first orders from the Council.

So I remain,

Your Friend and Humble Servant,

PETER DE HAVEN."

A description of the location and dimensions of the Continental Powder Mill is given, as follows:

"The dimensions of the Powder Mill on French Creek, about 4 miles above Moore Hall—(*), 102 ft. by 31 ft. 8 in. Two water wheels in the centre of the House, 18 ft. Diameter, 4 ft. Head and 9 ft. Fall, each wheel to work three shafts 32½ ft. length, six Mortar Trees 28 ft. length, 12 Mortars, each Tree 22 inches length, 12 inches breadth, 17 inches depth; Two Stampers, each Mortar 4 inches square and 12 ft. length.

The Grinding Mill, 37½ by 27½ ft., built of Stone, not yet covered in. Water Wheel 10½ ft. Diameter, to work seventy-two Stampers for preparing Sulphur, 12 sieves for Grinding Powder and one Bolting Cloth.

One Salt Peter House for refining, ready to set twelve Kettles, each Kettle capable of refining 150 wt. Four Drying Houses, 27 by 21 ft. each.

One end of the Powder Mill being near finished, can make thirty Hundred Powder per week, or perhaps Two Tons; will be ready about the 25th inst., the very extraordinary Freshet on the 26th of May having filled the Race, carried away the Dam (as it has most of them in this part of the Country) besides other Damage in the Loss of Boards, scantling, &c., has put them back at least Two Weeks."

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(*) Note. Moore Hall is located on the road between Phoenixville and Valley Forge. It is now the property of Mrs. Henry C. Pennypacker, the wife of the former Governor of Pennsylvania. This was the site of the "Continental Powder Mill".

An account is here given of the establishment of new Powder Mills in the Massachusetts Colony, patterned after the "Continental Powder Mill" established at French Creek outside of Philadelphia and near Valley Forge:

"The Provincial Congress of Massachusetts recommended in a resolution of Dec. 8, 1774, the restoration of one or more of the ruins of powder mills in the province or the erection of others. But private enterprise for the undertaking was lacking, and nearly a year later the Congress of Massachusetts was moved to commission a capable man to go to Philadelphia, where the only powder mill known to be in actual operation was located. Paul Revere (1736-1818) was selected for the task, and under date of Nov. 10, 1775, the committee on powder mills instructed him 'to obtain an exact plan of the best constructed powder mill, the quantity of powder that may be made in one day in said mill, the expense of the powder mill, and whether a skilled powder-maker can be obtained'."

(Quoted from a "History of the Explosive Industry in America" by A. P. Van Gelder and Hugo Schlatter, and published by the Institute of Makers of Explosives, Columbia University Press, N. Y., 1927.)

Kentucky.

PETER
m. Elizabeth Knight at Old
Christ Church, Philadelphia,
Jan. 18, 1763
d. 1815. Buried at Old Christ
Church, Philadelphia.
Descendants in Pennsylvania
and Virginia.

PETER
d. unm
e 56
Church

<i>Jonathan 3</i> b. Jan. 17, 1783 d. Sept. 3, 1831 Buried at Old m. Catharine James' Episc kiomen, Mo Pa., May 1, 18 b. Feb. 4, 1783 d. July 17, 186 6 children	<i>c</i> Julia Ann Yocum 1 child : Emily (Griffith)	<i>JOHN</i> m. Jane Hampton 6 children: Charles Mary Jane Susanna (Russell) John Isaac George	<i>MARY</i> m. Sam'l Derrickson 3 children: Isaac George Selina	<i>SARAH</i> m. Elias Jester 1 child : George	<i>GEORGE</i> m. Eliza Rambo 6 children : Robarts Mary Emily (Comley) Rachel Emma Susanna Rebecca
--	--	---	--	--	---

John 4
b. Dec. 16, 1800
d. Jan. 22, 1871
Buried at Old
m. Mary Ann
1841
b. May 17, 18
d. March 30
9 children

CATHARINE
b. Jan. 13, 1842
unm.

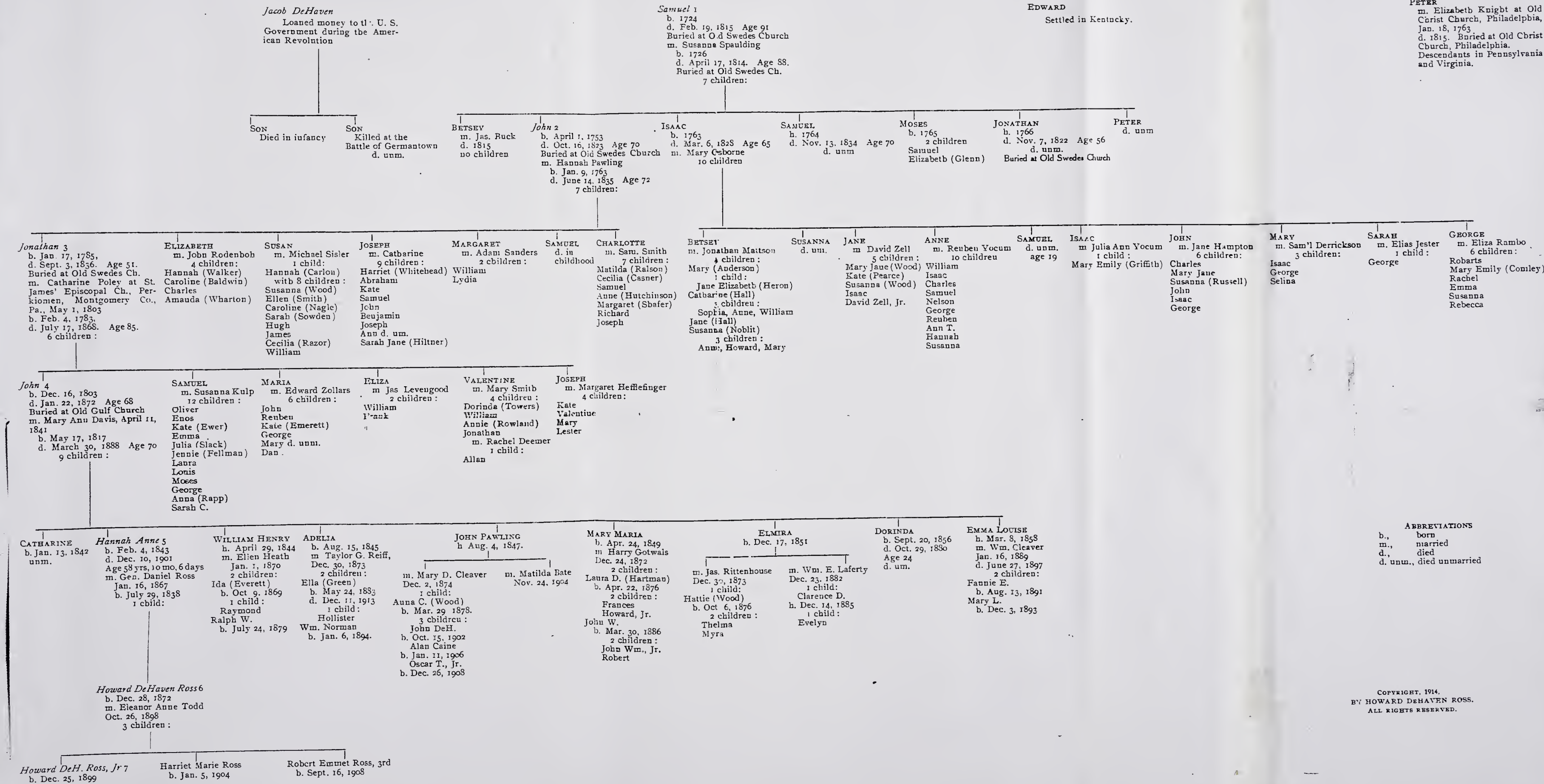
ABBREVIATIONS
b., born
m., married
d., died
d. unm., died unmarried

An account is here given of the establishment of new Powder Mills in the Massachusetts Colony, patterned after the "Continental Powder Mill" established at French Creek outside of Philadelphia and near Valley Forge:

"The Provincial Congress of Massachusetts recommended in a resolution of Dec. 8, 1774, the restoration of one or more of the ruins of powder mills in the province or the erection of others. But private enterprise for the undertaking was lacking, and nearly a year later the Congress of Massachusetts was moved to commission a capable man to go to Philadelphia, where the only powder mill known to be in actual operation was located. Paul Revere (1736-1818) was selected for the task, and under date of Nov. 10, 1775, the committee on powder mills instructed him 'to obtain an exact plan of the best constructed powder mill, the quantity of powder that may be made in one day in said mill, the expense of the powder mill, and whether a skilled powder-maker can be obtained'."

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De Haven Genealogical Chart.



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